

COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MARYLAND



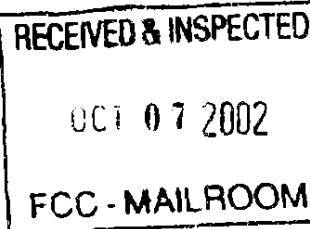
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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

September 27, 2002

### VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
145 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Public Service Commission of Maryland ("Maryland PSC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") that all federal high-cost support provided to Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong") for the period commencing January 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2003, will be utilized in a manner consistent with §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As required by §254(e), Armstrong will utilize the Federal high-cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The Commission has reviewed Armstrong's request for certification and is satisfied that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will continue to be utilized solely for the purposes intended under §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. A copy of Armstrong's affidavit in support of its request is attached.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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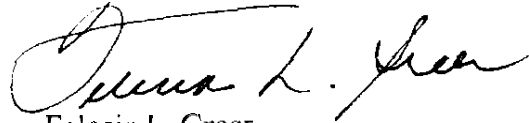
MDRS: 1-800-735-7258 (TTY/Voice)

Website: [www.psc.state.md.us/psc/](http://www.psc.state.md.us/psc/)

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
September 27, 2002  
Page 2

The Maryland PSC thanks the Commission for its cooperation in this very important matter. Please date stamp the extra copy of this filing and return it to the Maryland PSC in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

By Direction of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felicia L. Greer', written in a cursive style.

Felicia L. Greer  
Executive Secretary

ELG:nrm

- c James D. Mitchell, President Armstrong Telephone Company  
Sharon E. Webb, Esquire, Thomas, Thomas, Armstrong & Niesen

Ms. Irene Flannery  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2120 L Street, NW, Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 2037